

# Fact Sheet No. 2

## Ross Complex Superfund Site

**Bonneville**  
POWER ADMINISTRATION

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### CERCLA Superfund Process Overview

This fact sheet outlines the CERCLA process and briefly explains what has been accomplished to date at the Ross Complex.

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as Superfund, was passed by Congress in 1980. Superfund is a federal process to identify and clean up hazardous waste sites. It also provides for a trust fund (\$1.6 billion) to pay for cleanup of abandoned or uncontrolled sites, if responsible parties cannot be identified. A hazard ranking system is used to evaluate significant sites. After ranking Ross, EPA placed it on the National Priorities List in November, 1989. BPA will finance cleanup without Superfund trust fund.

SARA or the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, was passed by Congress to strengthen CERCLA and release more money (up to \$8.5 billion) to work on more sites.

Because the process is very detailed, an average Superfund cleanup takes about 7 years. BPA hopes to cleanup the site in less time. If experts discover dangers to health during the process, EPA may require BPA to take emergency cleanup actions.

#### Preliminary Assessment (PA)

Collect available information about a suspected hazardous waste site. EPA or state determines if further study is required. If so, site inspection is undertaken.

#### Site Inspection (SI)

Collect extensive information on hazardous waste used to score site on Hazard Ranking System and determine need for responsive action.

The assessment was completed in April, 1986. Accessible sources and employee interviews indicated possible waste in the groundwater. Three other areas posed problems: Fog Chamber disposal site, Cold Creek fill area and DOB-1 laboratory site.

The Site Inspection Report was completed by the Bonneville Power Administration in July 1989. The old capacitor testing lab had PCBs. The Fog Chamber disposal site had several contaminants. Groundwater contained 1,1,1-TCA and 1,1-DCE and chloroform.

#### Hazard Ranking System and National Priority List (HRS/NPL)

The HRS is a scoring system to evaluate potential risk to public health and the environment from hazardous substances. Based on a score from the HRS, EPA may place a site on the NPL.

EPA listed Ross complex on the NPL as a Superfund Site in November, 1989. The listing resulted primarily from potential groundwater contamination.

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**Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS)**

Two related studies, usually performed at the same time to determine the type and extent of contamination at a Superfund site, establish criteria for site cleanup, identify and screen alternatives for cleanup and detail the technology and cost of the alternatives.

BPA has contracted with Dames & Moore to do the two steps. These studies are now in the early stages. The public will be encouraged to review documents and give comments to assist BPA in making decisions.

**Remedy Selection/Record of Decision (ROD)**

A public document explaining cleanup alternative(s) to be used at NPL sites. It is based on information and analysis during the RI/FS and on public and community comments.

Remedy selection for the Ross Complex is expected in the Fall, 1992.

**Remedial Design (RD)**

Engineering phase following the ROD. Technical drawings and specifications are developed for the remedial action that follows.

Remedial Design for the Ross Complex is expected in 1993.

**Remedial Action (RA)**

The construction or implementation phase that follows remedial design, in which hazardous waste is cleaned up or contained.

Remedial Action for the Ross Complex is expected in 1993.

**Operation and Maintenance (O&M)**

Activities conducted at the site after construction to ensure cleanup and containment of waste is functioning properly.

If you would like to be placed on a mailing list, share ideas or just learn more about this project, contact:

John Straub, Ross Facility Manager, Bonneville Power Administration, P. O. Box 491, 5411 NE Highway 99, Dittmer Control Center, Vancouver, WA 98666, (206) 690-2070

You may also contact BPA's Public Involvement office in Portland. Telephone numbers, voice/TTY, for the Public Involvement office are: (503) 230-3478 in Portland; toll free (800) 452-8429 for Oregon outside of Portland; (800) 547-6048 for Washington, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, and California. You may also send comments to Public Involvement Manager, Bonneville Power Administration, Post Office Box 12999, Portland, Oregon 97212